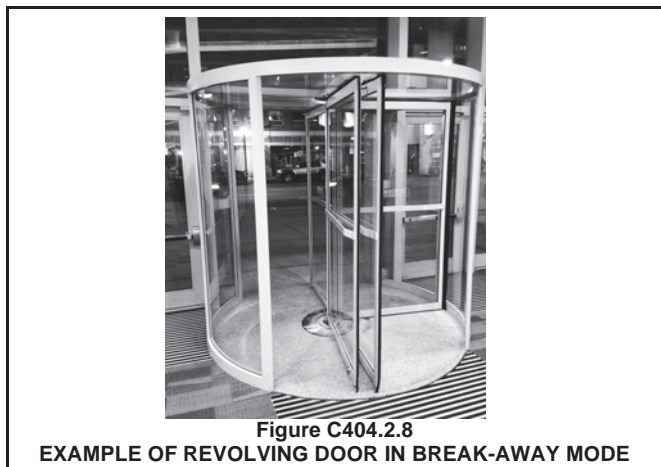


concerns. This type of system is also used in assisted living facilities and nursing homes where staff are concerned about possible wandering of residents with dementia or Alzheimers. Delayed egress hardware is permitted by the administrative authority for buildings other than assembly or educational buildings.

The exception in Section 404.1 does not require this section to apply for doors operated only by security personnel.



**404.2.9 Door and gate surface.** Door and gate surfaces within 10 inches (255 mm) of the floor, measured vertically, shall be smooth surfaces on the push side extending the full width of the door or gate. Door and gate hardware or any other obstruction or protrusion shall not be mounted in nor extend into the area within 10 inches (255 mm) of the floor. Parts creating horizontal or vertical joints in such surfaces shall be within  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch (1.6 mm) of the same plane as the other. Cavities created by added kick plates shall be capped.

**Exceptions:**

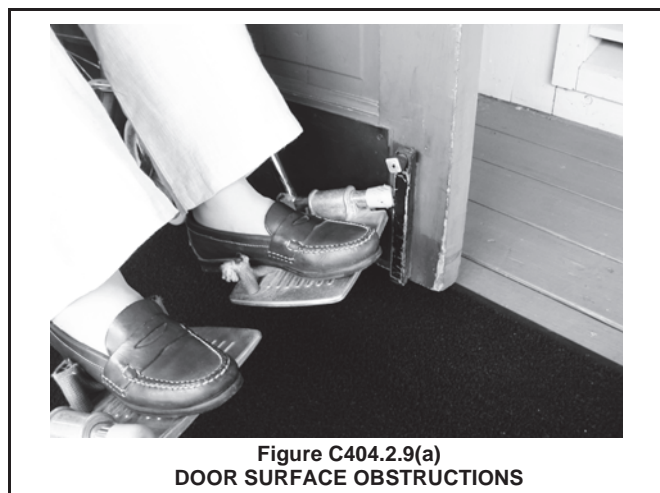
1. Sliding doors shall not be required to comply with this section.
  2. Tempered glass doors without stiles and having a bottom rail or shoe with the top leading edge tapered at no less than 60 degrees from the horizontal shall not be required to comply with the 10-inch (255 mm) bottom rail height requirement.
  3. Doors and gates that do not extend to within 10 inches (255 mm) of the floor shall not be required to comply with this section.
  4. The installation of kick plates on existing doors and gates without a smooth surface within 10 inches (255mm) of the floor shall be permitted. The kick plates shall extend to 10 inches (255 mm) above the floor and no more than 1 inch (25 mm) from the sides and bottom of the door. Cavities created by such kick-plates shall be capped.
- ❖ This provision is intended to assist people who will be attempting to open a door from the “push” side of the door. Some persons with disabilities push against doors with their chairs or walkers to open them.

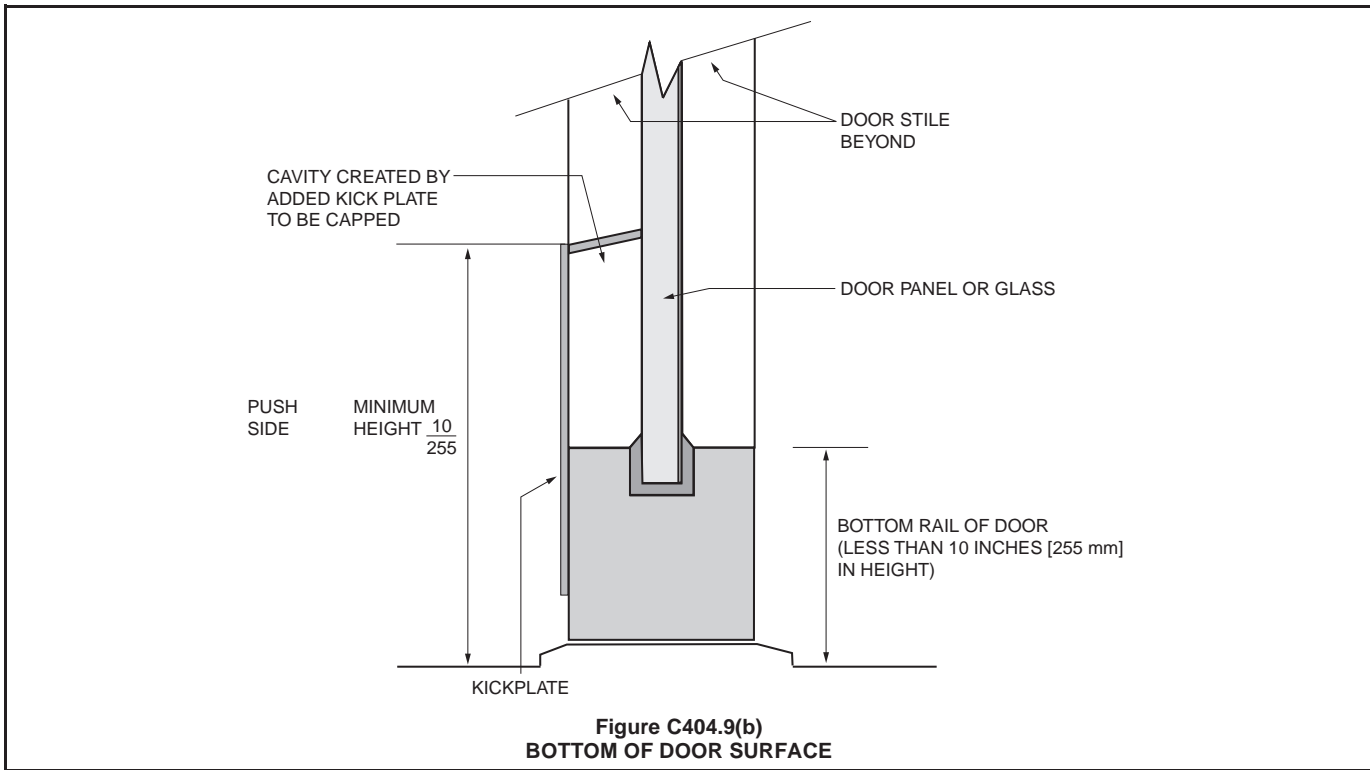
Applied kick plates on doors with closers reduce the required maintenance by withstanding abuse from wheelchairs and canes. If a door is provided with a smooth surface (one with no more than  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch [1.6 mm] variation), a user can be assured that the door will slide along the user's foot plates, the leg rest of a wheelchair or the bottom of a walker or crutch that is being pushed against the door without catching. A vertical bar or rod on the latch side of a door is likely to interfere with the opening of a door when the feet or a footrest are pressed against a door to open it [see Commentary Figure C404.2.9(a)]. In addition to the door stop indicated in the commentary figure, common errors are hardware that extends the full height of the door or panic hardware with the vertical rod below the hardware on the outside face of the door. Hardware must stop at least 10 inches (255 mm) above the floor. A plate covering the rod in accordance with Exception 4 could possibly resolve some issues.

To be effective, a kick plate must cover the door width minus approximately 1 inch (25 mm) on each side. It should start about 1 inch (25 mm) above the floor and go up to a height of 10 inches (255 mm) from the floor [see Commentary Figure C404.2.9(b)]. This range will allow for the most common height settings for wheelchair foot plates.

The requirement that cavities be capped will typically be applied when the kick plate is added onto a glass or panel door and the bottom rail of the door is less than 10 inches (255 mm) in height.

Regarding the exceptions, sliding doors are not used the same as a swinging doors, so this section is not applicable. Glass doors with a bottom rail that does not have a catch point at the top of the rail basically have provided an alternative means. Doors that do not extend to the ground, like old-fashioned saloon doors, are not required by this section to extend to the floor. The intent of Exception 4 is to clarify what would be appropriate limits for adding a kick-plate to an existing door so that the door could be used on an accessible route.





**404.2.10 Vision lites.** doors, gates and sidelites adjacent to doors or gates containing one or more glazing panels that permit viewing through the panels shall have the bottom of at least one panel on either the door, gate or an adjacent sidelite 43 inches (1090 mm) maximum above the floor.

**Exception:** Vision lites with the lowest part more than 66 inches (1675 mm) above the floor shall not be required to comply with this section.

❖ If either a door with glazing or a sidelite located adjacent to the door would permit viewing from one side of the door to the other, at least one portion of the glazing must be located at a maximum height of 43 inches (1090 mm) above the floor. There are two important aspects of this requirement. The first is that the provision does not require a vision panel. It simply states that when one is installed that permits viewing, the bottom edge of viewable glazing must be no higher 43 inches above the floor [see Commentary, Figures C404.2.10(a) and (b)]. Second, only one glazed panel is required to meet this height limitation. Therefore, if a door has a glazed portion located with the bottom edge more than 43 inches (1090 mm) above the floor and a sidelite is also installed, the sidelite will meet the 43-inch (1090 mm) maximum height limitation; a lower glazing height is not required on the door itself. This 43-inch (1090 mm) height was established to provide a person using a wheelchair a view through the glazing at a height that is as low as possible without interfering with the typical door hardware installation height. See the commentary to Section 103 to see how this height coordinates with the view of the typical person using a wheelchair.

The intent of the exemption is only to regulate vision

lites that are located at a height where the typical standing person could see through. If glazing such as a transom window above a door is installed, this section should not be viewed as requiring the low-level viewing panel. The exception allows glazing that has a bottom edge above a height 66 inches (1675 mm) or higher above the floor. This is typically a fire door [see Commentary Figure C404.2.10(c)]. The size of windows in fire doors is very limited, and the windows are needed by the firefighters to check the floor before leaving the stairway.

